Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented)   A method of VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

determining a number of VoIP calls currently active in the packet switched network;

determining a maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without the loss of voice quality;

allowing the admission of a new VoIP call when addition of the new VoIP call would not exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and

blocking the admission of a new VoIP call when the addition of the new VoIP call would exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and wherein

determining the maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without the loss of voice quality comprises determining bandwidth for a plurality of communication links between a plurality of gateway pools, determining the number of frames per IP packet used to transmit data in the packet switched network, and generating a capacity table indicating the maximum number of VoIP calls permitted to the plurality of communication links based on the bandwidth of each communication link and the frames per IP packet.

2

2. Cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

3. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim1, further comprising:

accessing the capacity table whenever a new VoIP call requests entry to the packet switched network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim1, wherein:

each gateway pool has in operation a plurality of communication devices connected to a gateway computer.

5. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 4, wherein:

at least one of the plurality of gateway pools has a gatekeeper which provides address translation and bandwidth management of the VoIP calls.

6. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 5, wherein the gatekeeper manages access of the VoIP calls to the packet switched network.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer for VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

determining a number of VoIP calls currently active in the packet switched network;

determining a maximum number of VoIP calls the packet can facilitate without the loss of voice quality;

3

allowing the admission of a new VoIP call when addition of the new VoIP call would not exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and

blocking the admission of a new VoIP call when the addition of the new VoIP call would exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and wherein

determining the maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without loss of voice quality comprises determining the bandwidth for a plurality of communication links between a plurality of gateway pools, determining the number of frames per IP packet used to transmit data in the packet switched network, and generating a capacity table indicating the maximum number of VoIP calls permitted for the plurality of communication link based on the bandwidth of each communication link and the frames per IP packet.

8. Cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice

9. (Previously Presented) The computer program recited in claim7, further comprising:

accessing the capacity table whenever a new VoIP call requests entry to the packet switched network.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer program recited in claim7, wherein:

each gateway pool has in operation a plurality of communication devices connected to a gateway computer.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer program recited in claim 10, wherein:

at least one of the plurality of gateway pools has a gatekeeper which provides address translation and bandwidth management of the VoIP calls.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer program recited in claim 11, wherein the gatekeeper manages access of the VoIP calls to the packet switched network.

13. -20. Cancelled (Without disclaimer or prejudice).

21. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 1 wherein:

determining the number of frames is a number of TRAU frames.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program recited in claim 7 wherein:

determining the number of frames is a number of TRAU frames.